


**US Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
EXPEDITED REMOVAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Revised:11/22/99

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| SITE NAME | Gordon Finishing Company | | |
| Date of Report | 3/13/02 | Removal Eligible (yes/no) | |
| SITE ID No. | | CERCLIS No. | |
| | | RCRIS No. | |

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|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Location:{street, block, lot, city, county, state, zip code,Longitude, Latitude} | 19 West State St., Johnstown, Fulton County, New York, 12095 | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| Abandoned (date) | circa 1998 | | |
| EPA Investigators (Name & Phone #) | Mike Solecki, 732 906-6918 | Date of Investigation | 2/19-21/2002 |
| State Investigators (Name & Phone #) | | Date of State Response | |
| State Case No. | | NRC Case No. | |
| ERNS Case No. | | | |
| State Referring Agency & State Referral date: | | | |
| Contact for Access to Property (facility, state, local) (phone #) | Mike Solecki, FOSC, USEPA | | |
| Directions to site (narrative) (Enclose copy of map at end of report) | NYSThruway, exit 27, NYSRt. 30A North, to Johnstown, in Johnstown: make left onto NYSRt. 67 West thru town, turn RIGHT onto Market St., go approximately one block bear LEFT at "Y" on to West State St. Site is Approximately one block on right (# 19) | | |
| Access Agreement (Verbal, Written, None, Any problems gaining access? If so, was an attorney assigned for the site? EPA Attorney's name & phone number) | The City of Johnstown owns the site (aquired for back taxes in 2001) the Fire Chief, Steve Hart, requested our assistance at the request of the mayor and town council. | | |

A. Site History (Short Narrative describing the origination of the site)

403507


The site was a leather finishing operation only. The tanned leather was sent by tanneries for dying and polishing prior to going through final preparation for shipping to goods manufacturing facilities.

The previous owner was a former worker at one of the local tanneries. He decided that he could provide a service to the local tanneries by providing finishing services during peak season. The local tanneries were able to provide enough business during the rest of the year to keep the facility all year round but at a reduced capacity. When the tanneries began closing there was not enough business to maintain the operation he closed. The facility closed in 1999.

Apparently, the former owner is Terry Gordon and still lives in the Johnstown area and works as an hourly worker whenever and wherever he can find work.

B. Site Characteristics

1. Physical Location

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| <i>Type of Site (Industrial, Commercial, residential etc.)</i> | Industrail in a residential area |
| <i>Current Operations</i> | ABANDONED |
| <i>Past Operations</i> | LEATHER FINISHING |
| <i>Nature of Neighborhood (industrial, commercial, rural, suburban. Describe the pedestrian and vehicular traffic, is it a highway, is the area deserted etc.)</i> | Vehicular and pedestian traffic is fairly high during the day. School children pass the facility to and from school. There is an operating finishing company next door and a warehouse on the otherside. Single and double occupancy homes are located accross the street. |

2. Physical Characteristics

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| <i>Size of Property</i> | appears to be about an acre in size | <i>Number of Buildings</i> | 1 |
| <i>Size of Bldgs, number of floors, basement</i> | the building has a half-deep basement from street level, has 3 full-above ground stories | | |
| <i>Building Drains (describe any evidence of potential discharge from the building and direction of flow, e.g sanitary sewer, are drain outfalls directed to a stream or other sensitive area, etc.)</i> | The building has the normal sanitary connections, no floor drains were found however an extensive search was not conducted. The building is situated approximately 20 feet from the Cayadutta Creek (the creek is the back property boundry). A storm drain intake is located near the front of the building at the curb. | | |
| <i>Building Construction (Roof: Wood, metal Walls: Masonry, wood Floor: Concrete, wood)</i> | The structure is basially wood throughout. | | |
| <i>Fire Protection systems</i> | The building has an out of service sprinkler system. | | |

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| <i>Space availability for vehicles trailers, staging of drums, equipment, etc.</i> | staging areas are available on the property |
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3. Site Conditions

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| Structural Integrity of Building/Structures (e.g. holes in the roof, past fires, evidence of past damage, water damage, obstacles to site entry) | structural integrity is fair, bad stair ways, some floor openings, some water damage, low overheads |
| Evidence of Public Entry (graffiti, vagrants, dumping etc.) | No evidence of vagrants, etc yet, however the fire chief believes the it is only a matter of time once word gets out |
| Housekeeping (Evidence of stains on ground, discolored water, pools of liquid on the ground, debris) | although the facility is messy, w/debris, it does not appear that there was any spillage, etc. |
| Occupancy (hours occupied) | N/A |
| Utilities Power/gas/water (On/off) Is there a fire hydrant nearby? | All utilities are OFF |
| Lighting (need of portable lights in order to work in the affected area?) | Portable lighting will be necessary |
| Natural Hazards (e.g. poison ivy, poisonous snakes, stray dogs) | It DOES NOT appear that there are any natural hazards however the ERA was done in the dead of winter |
| Other hazardous substance indicators (e.g. Dead fish, animals, vegetation; fissures or cracks in solid surfaces to expose deep waste layers, cleared land areas, pits, possible landfilled areas, pools of liquids, distinct odors, anything unusual) | There were no obvious HS indicators other than the drums |

4. Security

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| <i>Fencing (complete, partial, type, number of gates)</i> | There is no fencing |
| <i>Condition of fences (holes in fence)</i> | |
| <i>Other means of site access (open door, windows etc)</i> | the door is padlocked, widows are not inaccessible |
| <i>Security Guard/Service (Type, shift hours)</i> | |

5. Migration Pathways and Potential Receptors

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| <i>Sewers (Storm or sanitary and distance from site)</i> | on site |
| <i>Waterway, Confluences, Water intakes, drinking water wells (Distance from site)</i> | on stream bank of the Cayadutta Creek |
| <i>Sensitive ecosystems (wetlands, sanctuaries etc. and distance from site)</i> | just creek |
| <i>Human Exposure (playground, nursing homes, schools etc., Distance from site)</i> | None in the immediate area however it is a common route to the several schools |
| <i>Air Pathways (Dust or spray in the air, asbestos, gas generation or effervescence, distinct odors, etc.)</i> | Appear to be none, except in close proximity to drums |

6. Instrumentation and Sampling

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| Significant instrument readings during investigations (List instrument, levels and background) | the standard air readings were taken and 120ppm was indicated in close proximity to sodium hydroxide drums and no reading exceeded 50ppm at any other containers (bare in mind that the ERA was done in dead of winter, not optimal for most volatils) |
| Number of samples and type of analysis (e.g. hazcat or lab) | 51 samples were analyzed via HAZCAT and was performed on site by the Atlantic Strike Team; 25 liquid and 15 solid samples were sent to an independant lab for QA-1 analysis...RESULTS PENDING |

7. Number & Types of Containers

| Container | Number and types of Containers (e..g. plastic, wooden, concrete, metal) | Condition of containers (rusted leaking, bulging corroded etc.) |
|---|--|--|
| 55-gal drums | 12 poly, 11 fibre, 1 steel | fair, some open |
| 5 - 30 gal containers | 30 g: 1 poly, 1 steel 1 fibre; 25 g: 15 fibre; 20 g: 1 fibre, 2 steel; 10 g: 2 steel; 8g: 1 poly; 5 g: 5 poly; | various stages, some have no covers |
| <5 gal containers | 3 g: 6 poly; 1 g: 9 poly. | various stages, some have no covers |
| Below ground storage tanks (number and sizes; indicate phase levels, etc.) | None found | |
| Above ground storage tanks (number and sizes; indicate phase levels, etc.) | None found | |
| Secondary containment (Condition, size and type of construction) | | |
| Other (cylinders, explosives, etc.) | | |
| Empty containers (number, type and sizes) | 40-55 g poly and fibre 80-5 g poly | |

8. Total Estimated Quantities

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|-----------------------------------|------|
| CERCLA Hazardous substance | |
| OIL | NONE |
| RCRA | |

9. Material Identification

| Classification | Substance | Method of Identification (Labels, hazcat, analysis etc) |
|---|--|--|
| CERCLA (identify substances, e.g. benzene, PCB, etc.) | unknown organics, silicates, sodium hydroxide, salts, dyes containing metals, arsenic | HAZCAT, some labeled, final lab results pending |
| Oil (Type) | gasoline | |
| RCRA hazardous waste | | |

10. Evidence of Discharge

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| <i>Evidence of actual discharge (leaking containers, observation of runoffs, etc.)</i> | no apparent discharges |
| <i>Potential discharge (Haphazard storage, incompatibility, etc.)</i> | haphazard storage and a few incompatibilities were noted, incompatibilities were corrected |
| <i>Imminent discharge (e.g. damaged drums located at the edge of waterway, etc.)</i> | little potential discharges to the waterway |

11. Pending Actions

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| <i>Pending Actions to complete investigations (e.g. sampling, hazcat, lab analysis)</i> | as of 3/26/2002 awaiting QA-1 lab results |
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C. Site Legal Status

1. Ownership

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| <i>Status of Site Ownership</i> | City of Johnstown |
| <i>Status of Site Operations</i> | abandoned |

2. Site Cleanup

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Previous Actions</i> | NONE |
| <i>Present Actions</i> | NONE |

3. Enforcement Actions:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Records <i>(records at the site or elsewhere)</i> | records appear intact and on site |
| Local | |
| State | |
| EPA | |
| Other | |

4. Suspected PRPs

| Name | Address | Phone |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Terry Gordon | UNK, Johnstown, NY | UNK |
| International Leather | UNK | UNK |
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E. Other Information

1. List of Contacts/ Other Notifications

| Name | Affiliation | Address | Phone |
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2. Additional Information

3. Site Sketch, Maps, Photographs (append)

